

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

New Rules for Transportation of the Dead

The new Health and Safety Code has brought a few changes in the rules for transportation of dead bodies. Sections 7300 to 7355 of the code, which pertain to embalming and transportation follow:

CHAPTER 5. EMBALMING AND TRANSPORTATION.

Article 1. Embalming.

7300. No person shall embalm a body of any person who has died from an unknown cause, except with the written permission of the local health officers.

7301. No embalmer shall embalm a dead human body when he has information reasonably indicating crime in connection with the death until permission of the coroner, or a justice of the peace, if there is no coroner, has been obtained.

7302. Every funeral director and embalmer shall immediately report to the local health officer every contagious case on which the funeral director or embalmer may be called.

7303. No embalming fluid or methods of embalming disapproved by regulation of the State department shall be employed by any person in the case of deaths from contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases, or in cases where the body is to be transported upon a public conveyance for interment or cremation within this State or for transportation to a point without the State.

No embalming fluids shall be used in embalming which:

- (a) Contain heavy mineral or metallic substances which have a poisonous effect, such as arsenic and mercury;
- (b) Contain less than ten per cent formaldehyde gas.

Every person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.

Article 2. Transportation.

7350. It is unlawful for any person, or common carrier, to receive for transportation any dead human body, unless the body has been prepared by a regularly licensed embalmer in accordance with the rules prescribed by the State department,

and is accompanied by a yellow paster in a form approved by it.

7351. The requirements prescribed in this article for the transportation of the dead shall be strictly observed, subject to such changes and modifications as the State department may require and direct.

7352. The transportation into this State or from this State of bodies of persons who have died from plague, Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever, anthrax, glanders, or smallpox is prohibited.

Such bodies shall not be transported within this State except by permission and under the direction of the State department, and subject also to the conditions provided in section 7353.

7353. The bodies of persons who have died of Asiatic cholera, smallpox, yellow fever, diphtheria, membranous croup, scarlet fever (scarlatina, scarlet rash), erysipelas, glanders, anthrax, or leprosy, shall not be accepted for transportation unless prepared for transportation by:

- (a) Arterial and cavity injection with a disinfecting fluid approved by the State department.
- (b) Disinfection and stopping of all orifices with absorbent cotton.
- (c) Washing the body with a disinfectant.

The body shall be properly clothed, and placed in either:

- (a) An airtight metal-lined casket, all joints and seams hermetically sealed, and all inclosed in a strong, wooden transportation case, or,
- (b) A wooden casket encased in a metal-lined transportation case, all joints and seams of the case being hermetically sealed.

In the transportation of bodies dead from any disease named in this section, the body shall not be accompanied by persons or articles which have been exposed to the infection of the disease, unless certified by the health officer to have been properly disinfected.

7354. The bodies of persons who have died from typhoid fever, puerperal fever, tuberculosis, measles, or any other contagious or infectious disease not enumerated in sections 7352 and 7353, may be received for transportation when prepared

for transportation by arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid, and by washing the exterior of the body with an approved disinfecting fluid. The body shall be properly clothed. If the body can not reach its destination within ninety hours from the time of death it shall be placed in a wooden casket inclosed in a hermetically sealed metal-lined transportation case, or in an airtight metal or metal-lined casket inclosed in a wooden transportation case.

7355. The bodies of persons who have died from any cause not stated in nor covered by other provisions of this article, shall not be received for transportation unless the body has been embalmed and prepared by a licensed embalmer, and placed in a sound casket and inclosed in a wooden transportation case.

DAMAGED FOOD PRODUCTS INSPECTED

A Japanese vessel bearing a cargo of sugar was damaged by fire. At a result, 350,000 pounds were quarantined by the Bureau of Food and Drug Inspection. The sugar was segregated into three lots, some of which was released as in sound condition and the remainder sent to a local sugar refinery for salvaging.

Two ships met with disaster in San Francisco Bay last month, resulting in damage to large quantities of food products. Such products were segregated into sound, wholesome foodstuffs, foodstuffs capable of being salvaged, and foodstuffs unfit for human consumption and to be destroyed or sold for hog feed.

More than 1400 sacks of rice were reconditioned, together with many cases of canned goods. A large cargo of flour was sold for hog feed.

CLINIC ACTIVITIES

During July the new venereal disease clinic at Oakland was opened with a highly trained staff in charge. A floor space of approximately 4000 feet is occupied and every modern facility is provided.

Plans are under way for the establishment of a new clinic at Vallejo and the possible establishment of clinics in Yolo, Yuba, Sutter, and Butte counties. A new clinic at Visalia was established during the month, and arrangements completed for transferring the San Luis Obispo Clinic from the county hospital to the health department. Expansion programs in the clinics at Wilmington, San Pedro, and San Diego are under way.

The monthly average of clinic visits during the first six months of the year was 80,434. The average number of treatments given for syphilis was 48,835 and for gonorrhea 15,774.

DRUG DISTRIBUTION

Drugs sufficient for more than 56,000 venereal disease treatments were distributed by the Bureau of Venereal Diseases during July. Most of these were distributed to health officers in clinics, a relatively small amount going to private physicians whose patients are unable to pay for same.

THE TRUTH ABOUT VITAMINS

"Advertising campaigns and other efforts to promote the indiscreet use of expensive polyvitamin mixtures are unfortunate because the 'educational' program is not based on sound principles of nutrition or medicine," the Cooperative Committee on Vitamins, representing the American Medical Association's Councils on Pharmacy and Chemistry and on Foods, declares in a report on the status of certain questions concerning vitamins, published in the association's Journal for August 12.

"The use of vitamin mixtures by the public," the report continues, "is no assurance of 'good health'; their daily use is no guarantee that all of the vitamins which a person must secure will be provided."

"Although considerable evidence bearing on the subject has accumulated the requirements for vitamins A, B₁, C and D for either infants or adults have not been established except within rather wide limits. Apparently there is no reason why a properly selected diet should not afford an adequate supply of the requisite vitamins. Furthermore, with the exception of pellagra and a possible Vitamin B₁ deficiency there is no evidence of a noteworthy prevalence in this country of conditions in adults that might properly be ascribed to a lack of one or more vitamins. However, under circumstances bringing about a highly restricted dietary regimen and leading to 'one-sided' diets a relative shortage of some of the vitamins at times arises. In many such instances the situation can be properly corrected by prescription of appropriate foods. Occasionally, and particularly with infants, a corrective result may be more effectively and more speedily secured by the administration of the vitamin itself.

"The Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry considered the matter of mixed vitamin treatment and decided that for the present there seems to be no more logical basis for including all or a number of vitamins in one preparation than there is for combining a number of other known dietary essentials in any one pharmaceutical product.

"It is generally agreed that the first symptom or at least one of the first clinical symptoms of a vitamin A deficiency is night blindness, or nyctalopia. For this type of night blindness vitamin A is a specific. Cases of nyctalopia exist which do not respond to treatment with vitamin A. These may be due to congenital defects or to other diseases than those caused by lack of vitamin A. In view of present knowledge, the claim is not acceptable that the administration of vitamin A to drivers of automobiles will diminish the chance of accident from driving at night.

"Present indications are that vitamin A is an aid

toward the establishing of resistance of the body to infections in general only when there has been a decrease of body reserves of the vitamin and the ingestion of vitamin A is inadequate. It has not been shown to be specific in the prevention of colds, influenza and such infections, nor has it been demonstrated that ingestion of vitamin A far in excess of that necessary for normal body function and readily obtained from a properly selected diet is an aid in preventing various types of infections.

"The present status of research on the clinical use of thiamin (B_1) for specific diseases other than beriberi and for infant feeding, is such that definite claims for therapeutic value in relation to such diseases can not be recognized.

"Available evidence does not warrant the use of nicotinic acid, riboflavin or vitamin B_6 for prophylactic purposes or the suggestion that these substances be employed as a supplement to the ordinary diet. The protective dose, and the amount which should be present in a well balanced ration, are unknown.

"Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) is acceptable for the correction and prevention of scurvy. This effect has been established experimentally and by clinical investigation. Definite claims for the therapeutic value of ascorbic acid should be permitted only in relation to scurvy until further clinical or experimental evidence has substantiated its usefulness in other states.

"Vitamin D is recognized as a specific in the treatment of infantile rickets, spasmodophilia (infantile tetany) and osteomalacia (softening of the bones), diseases which are manifestations of abnormal calcium and phosphorus metabolism. Vitamin D is valuable in the prevention as well as in the curative treatment of these diseases.

"The idea of fortifying foods with dietary essentials is not new, but had its beginning with the introduction of iodized salt. Later the question of the fortification of foods with vitamin D was brought up when the possibility of irradiation with ultraviolet or the addition of fish liver oil concentrates was developed commercially and the need for vitamin D in the prophylaxis of rickets was made evident. On the basis of evidence available, the Council on Foods decided that of the common foods only milk should be accepted when fortified with vitamin D. Other items such as chewing gum, beer, cake flour, candy, ice cream and sausage represent specific instances of indiscriminate fortification not recognized by the Council as being in the interest of public health.

"There is evidence that in certain parts of the country there is, in general, a low intake of some members of the vitamin B complex, particularly nicotinic acid and riboflavin. It is not established

that marked deficiency of vitamin A and vitamin C in the diet occurs, but it is considered that the optional diet requires more vitamin A and vitamin C than the average diet provides.

"The fortification of foods with vitamins (or minerals) should not be viewed as a substitute for educational programs. Rather it should be considered that fortified foods simply afford an additional source of important dietary essentials needed for the attainment of optimal nutrition.

"It is important to keep the rules for dietary programs as simple as possible. If a great variety of vitamin D fortified foods are offered, for example, to the public, there is quite likely to be confusion in the mind of the mother trying to give her children the advantages of the modern knowledge of nutrition. This is an additional reason for recognition of milk alone of ordinary foods for fortification with vitamin D.

"Dietary deficiencies, while not limited to any group, are most likely to appear among people with low incomes. Any campaign for the nutritional improvement of foods should give careful consideration to the costs involved, because a higher cost of the final product may defeat the purpose of fortification."

NEW LAWS ON GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Under Chapter 547, Acts of 1939, a new section is added to the garbage disposal act of 1923. This section provides a specific definition of the term "garbage" and reads as follows:

The term "garbage" as used in this act, shall include all of the following: (a) animal, fruit and vegetable refuse, (b) offal, (c) leaves and cuttings, trimmings from trees, shrubs and grass, (d) inorganic refuse and rubbish, (e) anything thrown away as worthless.

Section 4475 of the Health and Safety Code prohibits the disposal of garbage on public highways and other property. It reads as follows:

4475. Every person who places, deposits, or dumps, or who causes to be placed, deposited or dumped, any garbage in or upon any street, alley, public highway, or road in common use or upon any public park or other public property other than property designated or set aside for such purpose by the governing board or body having charge thereof, or upon any private property into or upon which the public is admitted by easement or license, or on any private property without the consent of the owner, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

People who are always taking care of their health are like misers, who are hoarding up a treasure which they have never spirit enough to enjoy.—Sterne.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending August 5, 1939.

Chickenpox

64 cases: Berkeley 2, Oakland 2, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 4, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 2, San Fernando 2, San Marino 3, Napa 1, San Jacinto 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 10, Tracy 1, San Mateo County 2, Redwood City 3, Santa Barbara 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 4, Shasta County 7, Siskiyou County 2, Vallejo 1, Santa Rosa 1, Oxnard 1, Ventura 1, California 1.*

Diphtheria

19 cases: Oakland 2, Los Angeles County 3, Azusa 1, Los Angeles 6, Ontario 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Rosa 2.

German Measles

13 cases: Alameda 1, Emeryville 1, Richmond 1, Los Angeles County 2, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 1, Pasadena 1, Santa Ana 1, Coronado 1, San Diego 2, Tulare County 1.

Influenza

6 cases: Azusa 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 1, Whittier 1.

Malaria

5 cases: Sacramento County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 1, Marysville 1.

Measles

183 cases: Alameda County 2, Richmond 1, Fresno County 2, Kingsburg 4, Eureka 1, Kern County 3, Lakeport 1, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 2, Avalon 1, Azusa 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 38, Manhattan 2, Pasadena 5, Santa Monica 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 1, Sausalito 2, Monterey County 6, Soledad 2, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 2, Placer County 1, Auburn 1, Plumas County 17, Riverside 3, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino County 1, Redlands 1, Chula Vista 3, San Diego 16, San Francisco 1, Stockton 3, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara County 8, Santa Barbara 17, Santa Rosa 2, Stanislaus County 1, Porterville 1, Visalia 1, Ventura County 2, Oxnard 1, Ventura 2, Ontario 1.

Mumps

133 cases: Alameda County 4, Berkeley 7, Livermore 1, Oakland 3, Contra Costa County 1, Richmond 1, Placerville 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 9, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 12, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 3, Marin County 3, Merced County 1, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Napa 1, Santa Ana 1, Auburn 1, Plumas County 2, Sacramento 8, San Diego County 1, Chula Vista 2, Coronado 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 14, San Joaquin County 5, Stockton 9, Daly City 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 2, Palo Alto 12, San Jose 2, Solano County 1, Vallejo 1, Tulare County 1, Oxnard 2, Ventura 1, Yolo County 5, Woodland 1, Yuba County 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

30 cases: Oakland 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 17, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 1, Orange 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, Lodi 1, Stockton 1, Lompoc 1.

Scarlet Fever

36 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 3, Calaveras County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 6, Montebello 1, Pasadena 1, South Gate 1, San Rafael 1, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 1, San Bernardino County 2, National City 1, San Diego 2, San Joaquin County 3, Santa Clara County 1, Solano County 1, Red Bluff 1, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 1.

Smallpox

7 cases: Pomona 1, San Bernardino County 6.

Typhoid Fever

11 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles 2, Manhattan 1, Merced 1, Corona 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 1, Tulare 1, Marysville 1, California 1.*

Whooping Cough

161 cases: Alameda 1, Oakland 1, Colusa 6, Fresno County 8, Kern County 6, Los Angeles County 15, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 20, Pasadena 4, San Fernando 1, Santa Ana 1, Laguna Beach 1, Placentia 4, Colfax 1, Plumas County 9, Riverside County 1, Riverside 3, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 1, San Bernardino 2, San

*Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Diego 13, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 17, Stockton 3, Tracy 1, Arroyo Grande 1, Daly City 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Clara County 5, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 10, Sutter County 1, Ventura County 2, Lompoc 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

1 case: Kern County.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

5 cases: San Bernardino County 4, San Francisco 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

16 cases: Callexico 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 4, Santa Cruz 1, Sonoma County 6, Yolo County 1.

Pellagra

3 cases: Berkeley 1, Contra Costa County 1, Santa Cruz County 1.

Poliomyelitis

58 cases: Emeryville 1, Fresno County 1, Reedley 1, Callexico 1, Kern County 4, Delano 1, Los Angeles County 4, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 16, South Pasadena 1, Monterey Park 1, Mendocino County 1, Soledad 1, Orange County 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 2, San Diego 2, Stockton 3, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Cruz County 1, Sutter County 1, Tehama County 1, Tulare County 3, Ventura County 2.

Tetanus

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Tulare County 1.

Trachoma

1 case: California 1.*

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

3 cases: Fresno 1, San Diego 1, Tulare County 1.

Trichinosis

1 case: Palo Alto.

Jaundice (Epidemic)

1 case: Sonoma County.

Food Poisoning

25 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 24.

Undulant Fever.

11 cases: Fresno County 1, El Centro 1, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 1, Inglewood 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 1, Stockton 1.

Tularemia

1 case: Inyo County.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

1 case: Kern County.

Septic Sore Throat

6 cases: Kern County 1, Lake County 3, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 1.

Relapsing Fever

2 cases: Placer County 1, San Bernardino County 1.

Rabies (Animal)

17 cases: Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 3, Burbank 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 4, San Marino 1, San Joaquin County 1, San Mateo County 1, Stanislaus County 2, Tulare 1.

Men that look no further than their outsides, think health an appurtenance unto life, and quarrel with their constitutions for being sick; but I that have examined the parts of man, and know upon what tender filaments that fabric hangs, do wonder that we are not always so; and considering the thousand doors that lead to death, do thank God that we can die but once.—Sir T. Browne.

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